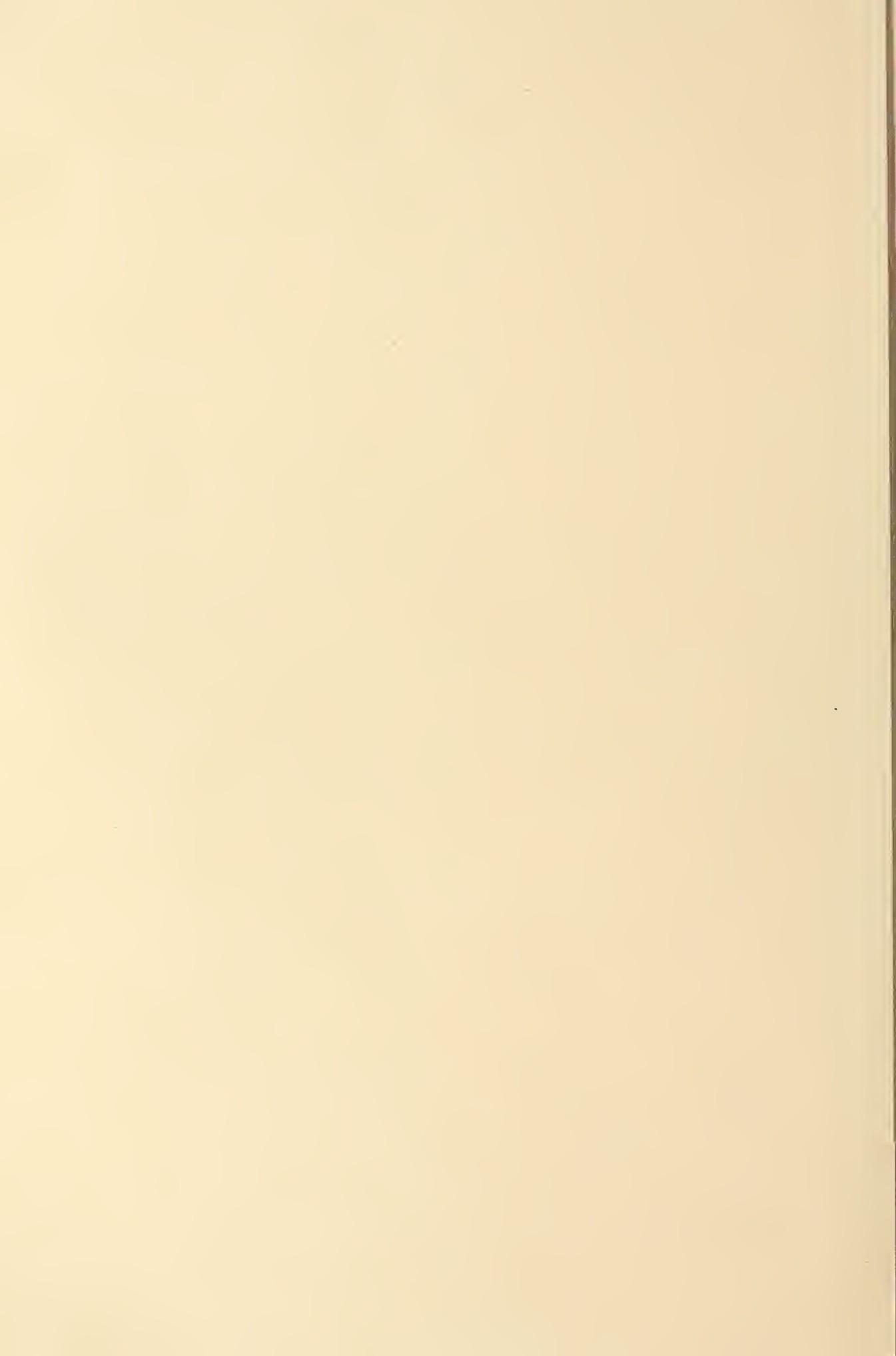


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA EXPANDING
FOREIGN OUTLETS FOR TOBACCO

Southern Rhodesia's exports of flue-cured tobacco totaled 100.8 million pounds during 1954 as compared with only 21.4 million pounds during fiscal 1938-39.

Southern Rhodesia: Distribution of domestic exports of flue-cured tobacco, 1954, with comparisons

Country of Destination	1938-39 1/	1953	1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United Kingdom.....	18,291	52,945	61,619
Australia.....	15	8,081	11,195
Netherlands.....	13	5,443	6,754
Denmark.....	2/	1,343	4,391
Western Germany.....	173	2,957	2,353
Belgium.....	12	1,031	1,148
France.....	2/	103	591
Sweden.....	2/	1,155	1,354
Norway.....	2/	195	493
Austria.....	2/	432	550
Egypt.....	2/	781	1,076
Union of S. Africa.....	2,133	1,489	911
Other.....	715	4,499	8,374
Total.....	21,352	80,454	100,809

1/ Fiscal year - April through March.

2/ Less than 50,000 pounds combined.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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Before the war, Southern Rhodesia had about 10 export outlets for flue-cured tobacco. The United Kingdom as the principal market took about 85 percent of the total. During 1953-54, Southern Rhodesia exported flue-cured tobacco to more than 40 different foreign markets, most of which was in direct competition with United States leaf. The United Kingdom in 1954 continued to be the principal market for Southern Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco. Such markets as Australia, Egypt, and most of the continental European countries have stepped up their purchases of Rhodesian leaf sharply since 1950. Exports to Western European countries (exclusive of the United Kingdom) totaled 17.8 million pounds in 1954, compared with about 0.2 million pounds in 1938-39.

COLOMBIA TRIES NEW TOBACCO EXPORT STIMULATION SCHEME

Exports of tobacco may increase as the result of a new export stimulation scheme, according to Quentin R. Bates, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Bogota.

The Colombian Government has enacted a number of measures in recent years to stimulate export of leaf tobacco. The first was issuance of export certificates which represented on the average a bonus of about 40 percent over export sales prices to the exporter. A new system permits exporters of tobacco to retain dollars or other foreign currencies earned and sell them in the free exchange market. The exchange rate in the free market is currently a little more than 4 pesos to the U. S. dollar, which is about 66 percent more than the official rate of 2.50 pesos per dollar. The type of Colombian tobacco exported is a very low grade, dark, air-cured tobacco with a farm value on the average of less than 1 peso per kilogram (about 13 U. S. cents per pound). This tobacco presents very little competition to tobacco exported by the United States.

PUERTO RICO'S TOBACCO CROP ABOVE EARLIER FORECAST

A recent estimate by the Crop Forecasting Service in Puerto Rico places this year's tobacco crop at 34 million pounds. This is an increase of almost 2 million pounds or 6 percent as compared to the forecast made in January 1955, but is slightly below the two previous crops of 34.1 million pounds in 1954 and 34.3 million pounds in 1953. This increase, as compared to earlier expectations is attributed to favorable weather conditions prevailing since January. Yield per acre is estimated at 922 pounds--almost 7 percent above the previously expected yield of 864 pounds and 9 percent above the 1954 yield. Harvested acreage in 1955 is now placed at 36,900 acres or about 200 acres below the January estimate and well below the 1954 figure of 40,500 acres. Almost all the Puerto Rican tobacco production is cigar filler type 46, although a small quantity of chewing tobacco is grown for local use.

SMALLER FIRE-CURED CROP IN NYASALAND; PRICES UP

Output of fire-cured tobacco in Nyasaland in 1955 is now placed at about 18.5 million pounds. This is considerably below an earlier forecast, and is 22 percent below the 1954 harvest. It is also below the 1947-51 average production of almost 21 million pounds. In an attempt to restrict production to more adapted areas and thus improve yields and quality, the number of native growers registered for the fire-cured crop harvested in 1955 were about one-fifth fewer than the actual number of producers in the previous year. Prolonged rains during the growing season adversely affected both yields and quality, with the result that output is below earlier expectations.

Nyasaland is the third ranking producer of fire-cured tobacco--surpassed only by the United States and Italy. In 1954, the country produced 20 percent of the world's fire-cured output.

The 1955 flue-cured tobacco crop in Nyasaland is estimated at 3.7 million pounds, slightly above a previous estimate of 3.5 million pounds, but 15 percent below the 1954 harvest. Burley production in 1955 is expected to total slightly more than 1.8 million pounds or 6 percent less than in 1954. Dark sun-cured production at 3.5 million pounds is slightly above the 1954 crop, but is below the 1947-51 average output.

Total tobacco production in Nyasaland is placed at 27.5 million pounds, as compared to a previous estimate of 31 million. The latest figure is 17 percent below the 1954 crop, reflecting the drop in the fire-cured output, and is 4 percent below the average production of 28.6 million pounds in the 1947-51 period.

Nyasaland: Production of tobacco by type, average 1947-51,
annual 1953-55

Kind	1947-51	1953	1954	1955 1/
	: 1,000 : pounds	: 1,000 : pounds	: 1,000 : pounds	: 1,000 : pounds
Flue-cured.....	2,697	3,735	4,306	3,668
Burley.....	1,025	1,691	1,949	1,835
Dark Sun-cured.....	3,929	6,286	3,299	3,538
Fire-cured.....	20,976	24,362	23,599	18,477
Total	28,627	36,074	33,153	27,518
1/ Preliminary				

(Cont'd., opposite page.)

Prices received at the Limbe auction market, which opened April 21, have averaged higher than a year earlier for all types of tobacco sold except flue-cured. Sales of fire-cured from the Southern Province totaled 1.16 million pounds in the first 4 weeks (through May 19) and averaged 17.31 pence (20.2 U. S. cents) per pound. This is 5 cents or about one-third higher than prices for the same period last year. Sales of flue-cured through May 19 totaled 1.62 million pounds and averaged 30.93 pence (36.1 U. S. cents) a pound--about 1.5 pence (1.75 U. S. cents) below last year's level. About 200,000 pounds of sun-cured and 162,000 pounds of Burley were sold in the first 4 weeks, and prices averaged 18.79 pence (21.92 U. S. cents) a pound for the former; and 32.2 pence (37.57 U. S. cents) for the latter.

- - - - -

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

United States exports of grass and legume seeds totalled 1.1 million pounds in April 1955, 13 percent higher than for the same month last year. Shipments show a sharp decrease at this time of year, as movement is highly seasonal. The bulk of these seeds are moved during the early winter months. Total shipments for the 10 months of the current crop year exceed the corresponding period of last year by approximately 97 percent.

UNITED STATES: Exports of grass and legume seeds, April 1955,
with comparisons

Kind of seed	April		July 1, 1953 to April 30, 1954		July 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955	
	1954	1955	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Alfalfa.....	48	148	1,000	9,272	1,000	10,345
Alsike.....	0	0	1,000	2,722	1,000	532
Other clover.....	54	40	1,000	7,902	1,000	10,015
Fescue.....	72	59	1,000	1,143	1,000	1,528
Kentucky bluegrass..	12	49	1,000	259	1,000	1,070
Orchard grass.....	103	5	1,000	245	1,000	205
Redtop.....	37	0	1,000	358	1,000	420
Timothy.....	0	509	1,000	498	1,000	1,360
Other grasses.....	666	314	1,000	2,307	1,000	23,225
Total.....	992	1,124	1,000	24,706	1,000	48,700

Compiled from statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

WORLD RICE TRADE UP SLIGHTLY IN 1954

International trade in rice in 1954 increased 3 percent as compared with the preceding year, but continued below the postwar peak of 1952. Exports, including re-exports, from all countries totaled 10,245 million pounds in terms of milled rice compared with 9,930 million pounds in 1953 and 11,034 million pounds in 1952. Trade was approximately half the 20,000 million pounds exported annually prior to World War II (average 1936-40).

Exporting countries: Despite a small gain in total exports, the general trend in rice trade was somewhat downward. A pronounced increase in shipments of Burma was primarily responsible for the gain in total trade, but rice exports declined in many countries. Exports from Asia increased 1,122 million pounds, of which 1,060 million pounds came from Burma.

Exports from Thailand of 2,607 million pounds include considerable quantities of coarse ground brokens, mostly inedible, included in total imports of some importing countries of Asia. This is a favorable aspect of Thailand's trade, as it represents a disposal of around 400 million pounds of inferior rice from previously reported stocks. Actually, exports of rice of a quality comparable with the 2,945 million pounds exported in 1953 was only 2,214 million pounds, a decline of 15 percent.

Rice exports of the Western Hemisphere countries were only two-thirds of the year before, and exports and re-exports from the countries of Europe declined 22 percent. Export availabilities from Egypt's crop for the first time in several years resulted in an increase in Africa's exports, but those in other countries decreased, and the total exported from the surplus countries of Africa was less than half the average in the immediate postwar years (1946-50).

The United States had the largest reduction in volume exported, despite having an increase in exportable supplies. Exports were down more than 500 million pounds, or approximately 30 percent. Dullness in the world rice market was responsible also for a decline in exports of other countries, as Taiwan, Korea, Italy, Ecuador, Nicárágua, and countries that in recent years have been producing rice for export at higher prices than prevailed in 1954. Portugal's small 1953-54 crop prevented rice from being the export commodity that it has been in other postwar years.

Rice exports in South America were the smallest since World War II. Even though Brazil had surplus supplies of around 400 million pounds, that country is reported to have exported no rice in 1954. Exports also declined from British Guiana, Chile, Ecuador, and Uruguay.

Some increase is reported, however, in the rice exports of Cambodia and South Vietnam, Indochina. Although statistics for Pakistan are not available, estimated exports exceeded those of 1953. Rice export increases occurred in the Near East countries, Iran and Iraq. Spain exported slightly more than in 1953, and Australia's exports were about the same as in the year before.

Importing countries: Increased imports of the two largest importers, Japan and India, brought the total of those countries to more than half the world rice imports. India's imports came from Burma, while those of Japan originated in countries of Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. Rice was imported into the Philippine Republic to build up stocks, whereas in the year before domestic production was sufficient for all requirements.

On the other hand, imports into several of the countries usually considered to be among Asia's heaviest importers of rice---Malaya, Ceylon, Indonesia, and Hong Kong---were the lowest in several years. Reasons for the declines are (1) increased production, (2) consumption of surplus stocks, and (3) withholding of purchases because of relatively high prices in exporting countries, especially in the first part of the year.

Total rice imports into Europe increased 24 percent compared with 1953, and were the largest since World War II. Even so, imports of nearly 1,000 million pounds were only 30 percent of prewar imports. Largest gains were in France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Luxembourg, and imports increased also in Denmark, Finland, and Yugoslavia. On the other hand, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland took less rice than in 1953. On account of heavy exports in 1953, Greece imported a significant volume of rice for domestic consumption before the 1954 crop was marketed.

The principal reason for a decline in imports in North America was an expansion in the rice production of Cuba in 1953 and 1954, which decreased the import requirements. Rice imports increased in Canada, British Honduras, Costa Rica, and some of the British West Indies. Because of a small crop in 1953, rather than exporting rice, Colombia imported a relatively large amount.

(See International Rice Trade tables, pp. 7-10.)

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Rice (in terms of milled): International trade, average 1946-50, annual 1952-54

Continent and country	Average 1946-50	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA:				
British Honduras	-	2,644	2,003	2,377
Canada	1,026	42,747	53,429	61,895
Costa Rica	626	1,936 2/	8,885	3,344
El Salvador	3,598	108	66	585
Guatemala	279	856 2/	92	4
Honduras 4/	2,294	466	85	2,451
Mexico	47,314	1,560	4,410	5
Nicaragua	10,643 2/	4:	11,087	1,783
Panama Republic	4:	6,713	10:	90
Panama Canal Zone	962,169	3,170	1,763,535	903
United States	-	2,647	-	6,023
Bahamas	-	16,330	-	-
Barbados	-	529	-	-
Bermuda	1:	540,796	-	-
Cuba	-	5,498	-	-
Curacao	-	2,187	1,776	1
Dominican Republic	88	12,165	-	1,117
Guadeloupe	824	442	1:	441
Haiti 5/	-	16,486	-	474,694
Jamaica	-	11,440	-	6,393
Other British West Indies	-	5,388	-	31,024
Martinique	-	26,847	141	11,023
Trinidad and Tobago	1,031,053	704,512	1,788,221	50
Total	1,031,053	704,512	1,788,221	687,530
EUROPE:				
Austria	7	22,621	0	50,279
Belgium and Luxembourg	603	47,354	14,804	50,234
Denmark	0	2,030	163	18,292
Finland	0	3,441	-	21,391
France	1,001	78,731	5,726	69,281
Germany	-	88,967	3,570	129,118
Greece	-	29,596	1,593	9,538
Iceland	-	1,064	-	905
Ireland	-	3,113	-	5,807
Italy	182,919	746	607,244	2
Malta	-	1,463	-	1,409
Netherlands	11,906	52,742	41,539	62,337
Norway	0	3,395	0	1,102

Portugal	4,394:	18,066:	49,273:	2,343:	23,911:	1,415:	0 :	2,116
Spain 8/	118:	1,401:	125,898:	24:	122,521:	7,6/	133,289:	-
Sweden	82:	11,496:	190:	12,425:	15:	21,321:	-	17,066
Switzerland	40:	47,191:	13,139:	25,664:	50:	53,177:	38 :	39,857
United Kingdom	3,120:	83,431:	1,445:	119,480:	780:	118,985:	-	153,233
Yugoslavia	- :	2,116:	- :	4,278:	-	5,721:	-	10,580
Total	204,278:	515,181:	865,246:	613,409:	832,959:	773,764:	651,083 :	961,919
ASIA:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	-
Aden	5,600:	11,067:	7,716:	11,684:	11,243:	19,400:	-	-
Cyprus	- :	3,947:	- :	3,031:	6,217:	-	-	3,252
Iran 2/	46,281:	111:	137,092:	75:	108,024:	42,10/	128,057 :	-
Iraq	5,201:	3,244:	4,134:	2,026:	2,798:	606:	20,000 :	-
Israel and Palestine	- :	13,000:	- :	8,757:	-	7,033:	-	7,443
Jordan	- :	11,244:	- :	19,180:	-	17,857:	-	14,000
Lebanon) 1,537:) 19,738:	2,205:	19,621:	-	10,582:	-	-
Syria	- :	0:	0:	18,289:	981:	12,813:	-	57,300
Saudi Arabia	- :	37,543:	- :	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	- :	4:	447:	0:	1,159:	27,128:	2,063:	19,266 7/
Total Near East	58,623:	140,341:	151,147:	193,322:	150,174:	186,513:	187,223 :	211,504
North Borneo	- :	26,121:	- :	31,596:	-	23,296:	-	-
Brunei	- :	4,563:	- :	11,986:	-	9,661:	-	105,000
Sarawak	- :	36,330:	- :	63,291:	-	117:	48,526:	-
Burma	2,147,120:	- :	2,923,522:	- :	2,140,137:	-	3,200,000 :	-
Ceylon	1,812:	810,906:	1,269:	894,433:	5,100:	904,185:	32,989 :	886,916
China	2,314:	501,306:	425,000:	-	600,000:	-	580,000 :	-
French India	- :	12,994:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	17,240:	284,834:	828:	521,990:	16,660:	687,582:	10,779 :	230,141
India 12/	860:	1,244,174:	- :	1,617,280:	-	425,600:	-	1,494,752
Indochina:	- :	- :	- :	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	247,261:) 83:	167,730:	-	214,336:	-	423,272 :	-
South Vietnam	- :	329,645:	- :	1,688,300:	232,030:	789,441:	-	365,397
Indonesia	1,458:	433,462:	2:	2,157,246:	11,359:	2,378,957:	-	570,461
Japan	- :	388,872:	2,454:	430,000:	-	550,000:	-	3,151,348
Korea	39,526:	50,782:	- :	-	-	28,880:	-	79,524
Macao	9,735:	56,074:	- :	-	-	-	-	-
Malaya	21,951:	810,577:	214,932:	1,162,460:	97,140:	1,204,517:	108,779 :	708,998
Pakistan 12/ 13/	73,190:	35,410:	181,635:	- :	132,345:	-	-	-
Philippine Islands	44,496:	237,105:	3:	139,160:	11,762:	2:	14,550 :	94,697
Portuguese India	- :	22,355:	- :	22,707:	-	22,707:	-	-
Ryukyu Islands	- :	6/ 75,728:	- :	-	-	-	-	-
Taiwan	50,524:	25,126:	232,043:	2:	130,939:	11,026:	79,524 :	-
Thailand	1,919,197:	- :	3,148,169:	-	2,945,828:	-	2,607,522 :	-
Total Far East	4,577,184:	5,108,352:	7,632,232:	8,973,551:	6,538,753:	7,275,380:	7,623,715 :	7,561,937
Total Asia	4,635,307:	5,249,193:	7,783,379:	9,167,373:	6,688,927:	7,461,993:	7,810,938 :	7,773,441

(Continued next page)

Continent and country	Average 1946-50			1952			1953 1/			1954 1/		
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
SOUTH AMERICA:												
Argentina	3,344:	95:	5,349:	0:	27,505:	0:	18,754:	0:	10,523:	24/	-	0
Bolivia	-	17,569:	-	23,529:	-	6,144:	20,390:	-	0:	-	-	0
Brazil	321,078:	-	378,764:	-	-	89,336:	-	82,701:	-	-	-	-
British Guiana	51,496:	-	61,992:	-	11:	8,959:	7,814:	12,389:	4,006:	-	-	-
Chile	25,854:	-	-	17,313:	61:	41,978:	-	219:	4,422:	-	-	67,529
Colombia	3,718:	5,352:	-	124,607:	-	1,345:	-	-	42,890:	-	-	-
Ecuador	125,520:	-	1,636:	0:	0:	10,000:	0:	1,219:	-	-	-	1,321
French Guiana	-	227:	178:	0:	31,580:	71,870:	37:	-	-	-	-	44
Paraguay	Peru	0:	15,051:	19,252:2/	0:	16,411:	0:	-	-	-	-	-
Surinam	10,132:2/	113:	28,146:	-	33,347:	0:	32,349:	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	12,266:	-	52,007:	-	5,515:	-	14,650:	0:	-	-	-	3,786
Venezuela	-	553,635:	92,001:	635,434:	71,439:	398,055:	68,158:	205,391:	101,680	-	-	-
Total												
AFRICA:												
Algeria	275:	6,888:	609:	8,344:	37:	10,077:	235:	-	-	-	-	7,540
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	181:	8,376:	0:	5,344:	-	3,086:	-	-	-	-	-	6,821
Belgian Congo - Ruanda-Urundi:)	9,926:	64:	868:	36:	2,080:	1,168:	-	-	-	-	-	124
Kenya	(162:)	6,402:	186:	11,201:	1,517:	12,667:6/	123:	6/	-	-	-	20,108
Uganda	366:	-	950:	1,962:	0:	8,076:	0:	6/	-	-	-	10,179
Nyasaland	4,785:	1,320:	749:	2,726:	3,143:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tanganyika	37:	3,917:	1,880:	13,940:	113:	167:	0:	6/	-	-	-	1,745
Zanzibar	-	2,822:	-	4,189:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Somaliland	-	3,562:	-	11,312:	-	18,023:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gambia	88:	23:	670:	-	1,425:	12:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	1,406:	-	994:	-	1,122:	-	6/	-	-	-	10,273
Cape Verde Islands	548,243:	27:	35,475:	97:	1,470:	88:	-	-	-	-	-	1,060
Egypt	-	3,015:	130:	6,353:	45:	11,129:	340:	-	-	-	-	-
French Cameroun	-	3,912:	-	4,799:	-	2,304:	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Equatorial Africa	-	4,814:	8,504:	556:	11,354:	1,294:	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Morocco	12:	1,543:	-	1,984:	-	3,307:	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Somaliland	-	2:	-	1,455:	-	789:	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Togoland	-	75,083:	-	120,142:	-	161,255:	-	-	-	-	-	2,341
French West Africa	-	5,612:	-	3,764:	-	5,039:	-	-	-	-	-	151,011
Gold Coast	-	3,199:	-	4,480:	-	4,510:	1:	-	-	-	-	5,996
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,974

Libya: Tripolitania	-	4,012:	5,000:	-	-	-
Madagascar	3,688:	6,006:	89,506:	1:	99,203:	3:
Mauritius	375:	65,265:	-	91,979:	129,107:	-
Mozambique	3,081:	14:	5,010:	0:	14,370:	0:
Nigeria	251:	27:	318:	198:	421:	48:
Angola	10,088:	47:	18,592:2/	: 4,114:	32:	112:
Portuguese Guinea	-	3,592:	-	-	-	1,556:
Sao Tome and Principe	-	3,974:	-	4,625:	-	-
Reunion	-	33,668:	-	44,304:	3,940:	3,688
Seychelles Islands	-	2,426:	-	5,297:	61,028:	39,182
Somalia	-	200:	-	1,984:	1,904:	-
Southern Rhodesia	-	181:	2,020:	91:	2,947:	646:
South West Africa	-	290:	-	661:	1,902:	-
Spanish Guinea	-	4,982:	-	6,173:	661:	-
Spanish Morocco	-	4,785:	-	1,102:	10,141:	-
Tunisia	-	1,420:	-	684:	1,984:	-
Union of South Africa	-	707:	27,230:	882:	63,147:	1,951:
Total	586,038:	296,853:	167,920:	439,624:	142,858:	487,199:
OCEANIA:						
Australia 4/	61,257:	146:	53,495:	236:	79,425:	-
New Guinea	-	12,302:	-	16,535:	-	16,940:
British Solomon Islands	-	2,008:	-	3,086:	-	2,866:
Fiji	-	675:	-	2,240:	-	1,008:
French Oceania	-	1,996:	-	3,360:	-	2,654:
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	-	705:	-	-	-	1,764:
New Caledonia	-	4,739:	-	5,952:	-	5,071:
New Hebrides	-	2,249:	-	4,630:	-	2,866:
New Zealand	-	79:	3,803:	148:	5,691:	3:
Pacific Islands (U.S. Trust)	-	-	2,297:	-	2,205:	6,171:
Western Samoa	-	-	669:	-	1,460:	1,984:
Papua 4/	-	-	5,613:	-	8,752:	594:
Total	61,236:	37,202:	53,643:	55,247:	79,428:	50,736:
World total	7,072,147:	6,894,942:	11,293,843:	11,034,672:	9,930,765:	80,000 :

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1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500 pounds. 3/ January-September. 4/ July-June. 5/ October-September. 6/ January-November. 7/ January-October. 8/ Shipments to Canary Islands and other possessions are excluded. 9/ March 21-March 20. 10/ March 21, 1954-February 19, 1955. 11/ Less than 5-year average. 12/ Pakistan included in India to August 15, 1947. 13/ May-April. 14/ January-August.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments and reports of United States Foreign Service officers. Includes milled, broken, semimilled unconverted and rough rice in terms of milled. Exports include reexports.

U.K. IMPORTS BANANAS IN POLYETHYLENE FILM

All bananas arriving in the United Kingdom will soon be wrapped in polyethylene film. The Banana Board of Jamaica has placed an order for about 10 tons of polyethylene each week from a United Kingdom firm. All of the exports from Jamaica will be wrapped in tubular film. The bananas are wrapped in the film at the gathering point.

KAPOK PRODUCTION GOOD
IN EAST PAKISTAN

An estimated 10 million pounds of kapok are expected to be available in East Pakistan during the current year (beginning April 1), compared to around 6.7 million in this area in 1943-44, according to information received from the office of the United States Agricultural Attache in Karachi. About 2.25 million pounds are utilized within Pakistan, and the remaining 7.5 to 8.0 million pounds are available for export.

Domestic utilization of kapok is almost entirely in filling for pillows, cushions, and quilts. The quantity used is rather constant from year to year. The principal markets for kapok in East Pakistan are Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Kalihat, Faridpur, Bararganj, and Tipperah.

The crop is usually exported to Calcutta for ginning and pressing because of lack of facilities in Pakistan. A kapok mill has been reported as planned for construction at Chittagong with a monthly processing capacity of close to 0.5 million pounds of processed kapok.

East Pakistan has been exporting small quantities of kapok to foreign markets for many years, but lack of processing machinery for the fiber has hampered further development. There is only one variety available. Grades for export depend largely upon the extent of processing and cleaning. The fiber for overseas markets is designated by the trade as "extra superfine."

The price of kapok in East Pakistan has been rising with an increase in demand. The price in March 1955 was about 14.6 cents a pound for First Quality at Narsingdi (an assembling market in the Dacca district), compared with about 9.9 cents in April 1954. A peak of 15.7 cents had been reached in December 1954.

NEW ZEALAND PROPOSES
SUPPORTS FOR MEAT PRICES

The Minister of Agriculture of New Zealand on June 8 announced in a public address that the Government hopes to introduce floor prices for export meat on October 1, 1955, according to a report by Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington.

There has been much discussion of price supports by Government and farmer representatives in the past few months, but details of the proposed scheme are still in question. There is, however, apparent agreement that a scheme should be made available and that it should begin with the next marketing season (October 1).

At present there is a fund equivalent to \$118 million in the meat pool account, which was accumulated over the years by withholding from producer receipts. This fund apparently is available for the operation of the scheme.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL
RECEIPTS TOP LAST SEASON

The New Zealand Government Statistician has reported that receipts from the 1954-55 wool season just ended totalled \$252 million compared with \$249 million the previous season, according to a report by Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. The average price received per pound for greasy wool was 57.7 cents compared with 58.3 cents in 1953-54. Of the total sales, \$196 million, compared with \$185 million in the previous season, were sold at auction in New Zealand with the balance being consigned to London sales.

NEW ZEALAND SHEEP NUMBERS INCREASE

Official estimates place sheep numbers in New Zealand at 39 million head on June 30, 1955, reports Eugene T. Ransom, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. Of this total, 25,350,000 were breeding ewes. This is an increase of 989,046 over last year's figure, or about $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent for total sheep, and 499,470 or just over 2 percent for breeding ewes. Compared with 5 years ago, this year's estimates for total sheep and breeding ewes show increases of about 12 percent.

The Government attributes the increase in sheep numbers to the rising carrying capacity of hill-country farms brought about by aerial top-dressing, better farm-management practices and the favorable wool and meat prices which have been received in recent years.

**ARGENTINE-USSR TRADE FACT RENEWAL:
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS**

The Argentine-Russian Trade and Payments Agreement of May 19, 1953, renewed for the calendar year 1955, specifies the following livestock commodities to be exported by Argentina: Wool, 11 to 13.2 million pounds; cattle hides, 51 million pounds; mutton, 44.1 million pounds; and other meats, 4.5 million pounds. Also listed: linseed oil, 132.2 million pounds; preserved meat, butter, and other miscellaneous products.

In return Russia will export fuel oil and (gasoline) lumber, iron, and steel, and various manufactured goods.

**U. K. MEAT STOCKS REDUCED;
SLAUGHTER CONTINUES LARGE**

Stocks of beef held by the British Ministry of Agriculture since the end of meat rationing in July 1954 have all been sold, reports R. L. Gastineau, Assistant Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, London. The large stocks of frozen meat on hand had been a depressing influence on market prices; and prices for frozen meat had reached unusually low levels in relation to current domestic production or imported chilled meat.

Deliveries to the Ministry under the Argentine contracts are now completed. The first imports by the private trade (under open license) of chilled beef from Argentina are expected to arrive in July.

Meat production in the United Kingdom during the first year following decontrol (early July 1954) established a new record. During the year slaughter of steers was particularly large. This resulted in a 10-percent reduction in numbers (2 years and over) in England and Wales in March 1955 compared with a year earlier. The large slaughter also resulted in an 18-percent reduction in sheep and lambs other than ewes for breeding compared with March 1954.

Despite the reduction in steer numbers and indications of a smaller 1955 pig crop, meat production will continue large during at least the remainder of 1955. Hog slaughter is expected to continue above a year earlier during much of 1955, reflecting the large pig crops of 1954. However, the number of breeding sows this spring was somewhat less than a year earlier and is in line with the policy of the government to discourage further increases in hog production. This smaller pig crop will be reflected in lower slaughter beginning in late 1955 or early 1956.

The March 1955 census for England and Wales indicated a further marked increase in the number of yearling steers, a small increase in male calves, and a 12-percent increase in the number of bred beef-type cows. There was an increase in breeding ewes, but the lambing season was unfavorable and losses of lambs in many areas were large.

INDIA'S WHEAT CROP LARGEST ON RECORD

The 1955 wheat harvest recently completed in India is the largest on record, according to reports from the American Embassy, New Delhi. Based on preliminary official estimates, the current production is estimated at about 317 million bushels. A crop that size would be 2 percent above the large 1954 harvest and 49 percent above the low 1945-49 average. A substantial increase in acreage accounts for the increase over the 1954 outturn. Present indications point to yields averaging about the same as in 1954. Yields in 1954 were above average.

Acreage for the 1955 crop is estimated at 28.4 million acres compared with 26.1 million in 1954 and the 1945-49 average of 23.3 million. This is considerably larger than for any previous year.

Wheat prices at country markets have been falling steadily and are expected to continue some decline until the monsoon rains, which commence in July, put a stop to the rush of new-crop wheat to the markets. A move to support the price of fair average quality white wheat at the equivalent of \$1.53 per bushel was reported in Foreign Crops and Markets June 20, 1955.

In a further move to stabilize prices, the Government has stopped sales of imported wheat, which had been selling at \$2.07 per bushel, in order to increase use of domestic wheat. Also, the limit of purchases by flour mills in Bombay and Calcutta has been doubled by allowing them to fill their wheat requirements for the next 6 months. Mills in these two cities use about 2.2 million bushels of wheat per month.

No significant change in the grain consumption level has been reported but it appears likely that lower prices may stimulate consumption, especially among the low-income groups. Food grains constitute about 65 percent of the total calories in the average Indian diet, and the use of the different food grains varies somewhat with price relationship changes.

JAPAN REPORTS SMALLER GRAIN CROP THAN IN '54

Latest official estimates place the 1955 wheat crop in Japan at 51 million bushels. Though above average, this is about 5 million bushels less than the large 1954 crop. Production of barley and naked barley is also less than in 1954. The outturn of these grains is estimated to be about 10 percent less than in 1954, contrary to earlier-season estimates, which indicated that a reduction in the wheat crop would be offset by an increase in naked barley production.

Near-record forecasts for these grains based on conditions at the beginning of May did not materialize, because of unfavorable weather during May. Hot, humid weather at that time retarded ripening and favored development of disease and insect damage. Though less than expected, the total production of the three grains combined appears to be one of the largest on record.

DANES CREATE NEW BUTTER
EXPORT ASSOCIATION

The nine butter export associations, which serve 757 cooperative dairies and handle almost two-thirds of Denmark's butter exports, have decided to establish a joint organization, the United Danish Butter Export Association. According to the report of Sherwood O. Berg, Agricultural Attaché at Copenhagen, the expressed reason for the alliance is to counterbalance the strongly centralized export arrangements of other exporting countries.

Another factor undoubtedly hastening the agreement is the imminence of the expiration of the Danish-British long-term dairy contract, which expires October 1, 1955. Many Danish farmers have expressed a fear that discontinuance of the agreement and re-establishment of private trading would mean lower incomes for farmers, as private exporters might be inclined to undersell each other.

The recent action is a continuation of a definite trend in Danish agriculture toward the establishment of their own cooperative organizations by the farmers, particularly in the export field.

In the meantime, dairy exports during the first quarter of the year remain about the same as during the first 3 months of 1954 except for a changing pattern of customers. Total receipts from the sales of dairy products abroad during January-March 1955 amounted to about \$40.7 million, only \$362,000 above receipts for the 1954 period. The pattern of butter exports was quite different however. During the first quarter of 1954 about 56 percent of the butter exports went to the United Kingdom and 23 percent to Soviet Russia. In the 1955 period only 47 percent of the exports went to the United Kingdom and Russia took no butter, because of the breakoff of the Russian-Danish trade agreement last July. Western Germany replaced Russia as an importer of Danish butter, taking 28 percent of the 60 million pounds of butter exported by Denmark during January-March.

The Danes are hopeful that the West German sale is not a temporary piece of business. There is some belief that increased purchasing power in Western Germany will stimulate butter consumption, that the West German dairy industry will not be able to supply the demand, and that butter will have to be imported. The Danes hope to help fill this demand.

The first quarter pattern of butter exports also presages a completely different pattern from April through September. Under terms of the agreement with the United Kingdom, 75 percent of Danish butter exports from October 1, 1954, through September 30, 1955, must go to the United Kingdom.

The fact that only 47 percent of first quarter exports went to the British Isles means that until September 30 almost all of the Danish exports must be directed toward the United Kingdom. This would leave Denmark little export availabilities for secondary markets before October 1. Availabilities that exist may go to Czechoslovakia, with which Denmark has recently concluded a trade agreement providing for the sale of 2.2 million pounds of butter at about 46 cents a pound.

The smaller shipments of Danish butter to England during the first quarter resulted in a price upswing for the Danish product. During the first period the Danish butter was commanding a trade price of 50 cents a pound, considerably above the price for butter from other markets.

Cheese exports were about 4 percent under the first quarter of 1954. The Danes explain this drop by the fact that reduced production in 1954 cut supplies of mature cheese for export.

IRELAND'S BUTTER EXPORTS INCREASE

Butter exports from Ireland in first quarter, 1955, totaled 1,232,000 pounds, compared with 84,000 pounds in the same period of 1954, according to a recent dispatch from the American Embassy, Dublin. Of the total quantity shipped in January-March, 1955, 93 percent went to Northern Ireland.

No butter was imported in this quarter, whereas last year, Ireland imported more than 1 million pounds from New Zealand to meet consumption requirements.

CANADA SELLS BUTTER UNDER COST

As mentioned in last week's late news items, the Canadian Government is offering the dairy trade surplus butter at 56.96 cents a pound, at current exchange rates. This is about 5 cents a pound under the winter price of 62 cents on butter purchased at 59 cents, with storage and freight costs of a little over 3 cents added. Government stocks are about 50 million pounds, of which only 20 million may be considered surplus.

The report from the United States Embassy at Ottawa states that the Canadian government will continue to buy butter at 58 cents a pound, Canadian (59 cents in U.S. currency at present rates of exchange), and will maintain this floor through April 1956. In the meantime, the Canadian government is continuing reduced-price sales to institutions (Foreign Crops and Markets, February 7, 1955).

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Wholesale prices at specified markets, with comparisons

(In U. S. Cents Per Pound)

Country, market, and description	Butter					Cheese				
	Date	:	Quotations	:	Date	:	Quotations	:	Date	
	1955	:	Price: Month : Year	:	1955	:	Price: Month : Year	:	1955	
		:	earlier:earlier	:		:	earlier:earlier	:		
<u>United Kingdom (London)</u>										
New Zealand Finest Grade	June 2:	42.6	42.6	:	51.6	:	-	:	-	:
New Zealand Finest White	-	:	-	:	-	:	June 2:	19.4	18.7	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>										
Choicest butter	May 27:	41.4	41.4	:	41.8	:	-	:	-	:
Choicest Cheddar	-	:	-	:	-	:	May 27:	20.3	25.4	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>										
Creamery butter (bulk)	May 25:	48.7	48.7	:	55.1	:	-	:	-	:
Cheese	-	:	-	:	-	:	May 25:	30.7	30.7	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u>										
	May 26:	43.7	43.1	:	42.0	:	-	:	-	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>France (Paris)</u>										
Charentes Creamery butter	May 24:	66.9	81.8	:	69.3	:	-	:	-	:
<u>Germany (Kempten)</u>										
Markenbutter	May 25:	64.9	65.4	:	59.4	:	-	:	-	:
<u>United States</u>										
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	June 3:	57.8	57.9	:	57.6	:	-	:	-	:
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	-	:	-	:	-	:	June 3:	31.2	31.8	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>										
Creamery butter	May 25:	48.6	48.6	:	46.1	:	-	:	-	:
Full cream Gouda	-	:	-	:	-	:	May 20:	22.7	24.5	:
Edam 40 percent	-	:	-	:	-	:	May 20:	20.9	21.8	:
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u>										
	May 26:	67.7	72.9	:	74.0	:	-	:	-	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>										
1st grade creamery	May 28:	57.6	59.2	:	59.2	:	-	:	-	:
Ontario white	-	:	-	:	-	:	May 28:	29.4	30.4	:
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	

Sources: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee; U. S. Consular Reports; and The Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY SECRETARIAT PROPOSED BY NEW ZEALAND

Establishment of an international dairy secretariat similar to the Wool Secretariat has been suggested by A. P. O'Shea, Secretary of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand. According to a report received from Eugene Ransom, Agricultural Attaché at Wellington, the suggestion has received the unanimous support of the Dominion Dairy Section Council.

According to Mr. O'Shea, the Secretariat would be of assistance to New Zealand in marketing its products in the United States. Mr. O'Shea stated, "We've got a market for butter there, but we cannot get it without the good will of American dairy producers. This is where the international dairy secretariat would come in."

Mr. O'Shea thought that short-cut methods and low-cost practices of New Zealand's dairy industry could be used to advantage in America because, "With our cheap costs of production we would probably be able to put dairy products into strategic places in America at a profit and use some of the profit to assist their U.S. industry."

At about the same time Mr. O'Shea's proposal was being announced, "The Dominion," Wellington morning paper, protested editorially on the dairy disposal activities of the United States, with particular reference to the United States' release of 10 million pounds of non-fat dry milk solids below the support price. The editorial stated that while the United States was dumping on the world market it was also imposing embargoes on the importation of dairy produce, thus making it impossible for other countries, among them New Zealand, to gain access to the United States dairy market. The editorial wound up by tying the situation into trade policy aenent the Soviet Union by stating: "America has been loud in her counsel not to trade with Russia. But trade we must. We much prefer to restrict our transactions to our friends, but her 'closed door' policy, so essentially a part of the farm subsidy programme, leaves us no alternative but to seek markets where we can find them."

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MARCH-MATURING AVOCADO DEVELOPED IN CUBA

Budwood of a small-fruited avocado variety that matures in March and is said to have excellent flavor and good shipping quality is being propagated at the Cuban agricultural experiment station, Santiago de las Vegas. Most varieties of Cuban avocados are shipped June through September. The new variety, not yet named, was developed in an avocado selection program sponsored as part of the United States-Cuba technical-assistance program.

MEXICO EXPECTS RECORD
COTTON CROP IN 1955-56

A record cotton crop of approximately 2 million bales (500 pounds gross) is expected in Mexico for the 1955-56 crop year, according to Dr. Paul G. Minneman, Agricultural Counselor, American Embassy, Mexico City. A considerable increase in the irrigated land planted to cotton is expected to increase cotton production by about 12 to 15 percent over the previous record crop of 1,780,000 bales in the 1954-55 crop year.

Planting for the 1955-56 crop was not entirely completed by mid-June in some areas, but sharp increases in the Matamoros and west coast section of the Sonora-Sinaloa regions were expected to result in a total planted area of 2,685,000 acres as compared with 1,820,000 acres for the previous year. Progress of the crop in the irrigated areas was reportedly good, with indications for early harvest; but shortage of rain in some of the unirrigated areas retarded the crop by several weeks.

The estimated acreage and production for the various cotton-growing areas are as follows:

Mexican cotton production, estimate 1954 and forecast 1955

Region	Area planted		Production	
	Estimate	Forecast	Estimate	Forecast
	1954	1955	1954	1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	bales	bales
Matamoros 1/.....	525	950	329	459
Mexicali.....	450	460	442	382
Sonora-Sinaloa.....	350	655	383	560
Laguna.....	246	270	345	326
Delicias.....	125	175	187	214
Juarez.....	35	40	37	36
Don Martin.....	17	35	13	15
La Paz.....	12	26	7	15
Other.....	60	75	34	51
	:	:	:	:
Total.....	1,820	2,635	1,777	2,058

1/ About one-fourth of the Matamoros area is without irrigation.

Mexico's cotton exports from the 1954-55 crop (July-June year) are expected to reach approximately 1,340,000 bales. Exports for July-April 1954-55 amounted to 1.2 million bales or 30 percent more than during the comparable period of the previous year. Heaviest movement of cotton exports usually occurs in October to December. This year's rate at that period amounted to about 160,000 bales per month. By April it had declined to 52,000 bales.

More than half of Mexico's cotton exports move through United States ports for transshipment to other countries. Approximate quantities exported to the principal destinations, both by direct export and transshipment, during August-March 1954-55, with corresponding figures for 1953-54 in parentheses, were: Japan 404,000 bales (561,000); Belgium 125,000 (89,000); the Netherlands 107,000 (90,000); Western Germany 124,000 (82,000); the United Kingdom 103,000 (78,000); Switzerland 24,000 (15,000); and Sweden 19,000 (11,000).

Domestic consumption, although it is rising steadily, still accounted for only about 23 percent of the 1954 crop. The increase in domestic consumption in the past year is due almost entirely to increased demand for textiles, resulting from the higher level of agricultural income derived from large crops of all kinds in 1954. Total domestic consumption for July-June 1954-55 is estimated at 407,000 bales, an increase of 23 percent over the previous year's rate.

Prices of Mexican cotton for export declined slightly during recent months as compared with last fall and a year ago, reflecting some market uncertainty. The following quotations show average monthly prices at Torreon for the past two crops for Middling 15/16 inch staple:

<u>Month</u>	<u>1953-54</u>	<u>1954-55</u>
	<u>(U.S. cents per pound 1/)</u>	
July	27.55	27.14
August	27.08	28.75
September	26.77	29.95
October	27.19	29.42
November	28.11	28.40
December	28.33	27.96
January	28.31	27.62
February	29.94	27.04
March	31.13	not available
April	31.77	28.16
May	29.20	25.76
June	25.94	

1/ Prices do not include export tax of 5.54 cents a pound.

INDIA'S 1954-55 COTTON CROP MAY EXCEED EARLY ESTIMATES

India's 1954-55 cotton crop may exceed 4 million bales (500 pounds gross), a slight increase over earlier estimates which had ranged as high as 3.9 million, and about 7 percent higher than the 1953-54 crop of 3,730,000 bales, according to Eric B. Snearer, Agricultural Officer, and V. Krishnamurthy, American Consulate General, Bombay. Indications of a shift to production of longer staple varieties is evidenced by a breakdown of the fourth official government estimate, which shows increases over last year in the long (7/8 inch and above) and medium staples (below 7/8 inch and above 11/16 inch), counterbalanced by a decrease in the short staples (11/16 inch and below). Acreage for the 1954-55 crop is currently estimated at 18 million, as compared with 17,027,000 for 1953-54.

Cotton mill consumption in India during the first 8 months (August-March) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 2,581,000 bales, or about 4 percent higher than consumption of 2,485,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1953-54. Mill consumption of Indian cotton through March amounted to 2,207,000 bales or 5 percent above last year, and consumption of United States cotton amounted to 109,000 bales, more than twice the previous year's rate. Non-mill consumption amounts to approximately 18,000 bales per month.

India's cotton imports during August-March 1954-55 amounted to 261,000 bales as compared with 272,000 in the corresponding period a year earlier. The temporary suspension on May 11, 1955, of all cotton imports from non-dollar areas was modified on May 23 by resumption of licensing for non-dollar cotton of 1-1/4 inches and longer, following representations by the trade that there seemed no reason to stop the import of extra-long staple cotton. Imports from the United States in the current period amounted to 79,000 bales as compared with 24,000 a year ago. Other major sources of India's cotton imports and quantities imported in August-March 1954-55 with 1953-54 figures in parentheses were as follows: Egypt 77,000 bales (154,000); Kenya 67,000 (47,000); Sudan 19,000 (40,000); and Tanganyika 14,000 (1,000).

India's cotton exports during August-March 1954-55 amounted to 114,000 bales as compared with 79,000 for the similar period of 1953-54. The Government has liberalized export quotas several times during recent months, and the total export quota presently stands at 300,000 Indian bales (equivalent to 245,000 bales of 500 pounds gross). The upper limit of exportable staples was also raised on May 23, 1955, from 3/4 inch to 25/32 inch. Principal destinations of India's cotton are Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with smaller quantities going to France, Western Germany, and the Netherlands.

Futures and spot prices for indigenous cottons have dropped further during the last 3 months. Quotations for spot cotton on the Bombay market for the specified dates were as follows:

	<u>Dec. 27, 1954</u>	<u>March 25, 1955</u>	<u>June 21, 1955</u>
	(equivalent U.S. cents per pound 1/)		
Jarila, Fine.....	29.37	26.47	26.12
Broach Vijay, Fine	32.43	28.65	29.85
Bengal Desi, Fine	23.92	22.80	22.53

1/ Prices include export and intermediate taxes of approximately 10.66 U.S. cents for Jarila and Broach Vijay, and 8.00 cents for Bengal Desi.

India's total cotton stocks on August 1, 1954 were estimated at 1,735,000 bales, of which approximately 989,000 were mill stocks. The present supply of cotton is reportedly favorable, although specific data as to quantities held are not available.

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FINLAND IMPORTS OILSEEDS, OILCAKES TO SUPPLEMENT DOMESTIC OUTPUT

Finland's domestic oilseed pressing and extraction plant produced 23,460 short tons of oilseed cake and meal in 1954, reports the Office of the Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Helsinki. The raw materials processed were 14,500 tons of domestically grown turnip-rapeseed, 13,147 tons of soybeans purchased from China, 4,702 tons of copra chiefly from British Malacca, and 2,688 tons of domestic flaxseed.

In the period November 1, 1954-May 20, 1955, Finland imported 82,367 tons of oilcakes and meals. These included 9,921 tons of soybean meal of United States origin, which arrived early in 1955 and was reported by the trade to have been of very high quality. The Soviet Union supplied about 25,350 tons of the oil meal feeds.

Import licenses have been issued for further quantities of feed concentrates, including 4,400 tons of soybean meal from West Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark. In addition, trade agreements with the Soviet Union and Argentina call for imports of large quantities of oilcakes and meals from these countries. Finland also is committed to purchase 3,300 tons of linseed meal from Rumania under a 1955 trade agreement.

Imports of feed items from the United States are greatly restricted by shortages of foreign currency. The purchase of United States soybean meal referred to above was effected as a switch transaction with Egypt.

CEYLON'S EXPORTS OF COCONUT PRODUCTS UP IN FIRST QUARTER

Exports of copra and coconut oil from Ceylon during January-March 1955 totaled 34,298 long tons, copra equivalent, or an increase of 8 percent from aggregate exports of 31,848 tons in the corresponding period of 1954, reports the American Embassy, Colombo. The increase in exports from 1954 is mainly due to normal production of coconuts during the quarter, against below-normal yields in the first 3 months of last year.

Copra exports, as such, of 6,792 tons were up more than one-third from 1954 first-quarter shipments. India, by far the principal buyer of Ceylon copra, took 95 percent of January-March 1955 exports.

Coconut oil exports during the quarter were 17,329 tons against 16,932 tons in the corresponding period of 1954. Italy was the most important market, followed by Canada, China, India and the Netherlands. Coconut oil exports during calendar 1954 were 68,915 tons, a decline of more than one-fourth from the preceding year.

Exports of desiccated coconut during the quarter under review were 11,406 tons, a substantial increase from the 8,435 tons exported in January-March of last year. The United Kingdom was the principal buyer with 4,400 tons, followed by Germany--1,516, Canada--966, Australia--844, and the Netherlands--583 tons. Exports of desiccated coconut in calendar 1954 totaled 55,204 tons against 57,278 tons in 1953.

Ceylon also exported 1,642,901 fresh coconuts in the first quarter of 1955 against 1,231,210 nuts in January-March 1954 and 9,170,290 nuts in calendar 1954. The United Kingdom and Germany were the principal buyers.

With the steady decline in prices of coconut products since the beginning of 1954, producing interests and the press advocated decreases in the export duties on these products. On March 11, 1955, the Government reduced the duties on coconut oil, copra, and desiccated coconut to 135 rupees (\$28), 200 rupees (\$42) and 95 rupees (\$20) per long ton, respectively.

As a result of the reduction in duty, the market prices for coconut products showed a temporary improvement but dropped soon owing to a general weakness of oil prices in European markets. Wholesale prices of coconut products on March 28, 1955, were as follows: Copra--140 rupees per candy (\$117 per long ton); coconut oil--925 rupees per long ton (8.6 cents per pound); and desiccated coconut--0.335 rupee (7.0 cents) per pound.

Coconut production figures by quarters are not available, but estimated annual production continues in excess of 2 billion coconuts. It is estimated that half of Ceylon's crop will be harvested during the South West monsoon which began in May. (See table, opposite page.)

CEYLON: Copra and coconut oil exports,
average 1935-39, annual 1953-54 and January-March 1954-55

(Long tons)

Country	Copra			Coconut oil			
	Average: 1935-39:	1953	1954 1/	January-March 1954	Average: 1935-39:	1953	1954 1/
	1955	1955	1955	1955	1955	1955	1955
Canada	-	-	-	-	8,523	14,884	5,191
West Indies	-	-	-	-	881	-	-
Denmark	1,605	-	-	-	35	-	-
France	354	-	-	-	347	-	-
Western Germany	1,482	-	-	-	1,200	7,492	100
Greece	1,526	-	-	-	120	-	100
Italy	6,541	-	-	-	1,724	17,648	647
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	26,427	447
Sweden	-	-	-	-	3,573	-	-
Switzerland	-	2/	-	-	84	134	-
United Kingdom	420	-	-	-	14,160	2,787	2,787
Other Europe	4,573	-	-	-	5,913 3/	4,074	6,110
China	-	-	-	-	2/	6,427	6,110
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	146	22	635
India	42,553	18,628	39,189	4,367	6,450	10,769	8,912
Iraq	20	134	115	10	81	315	666
Pakistan	-	2,200	6,568	545	164	-	403
Israel	-	150	-	-	-	15	7
Syria	60	100	-	-	-	164	7
Other Asia	360	178	149	50	95	2,406	1,908
Egypt	425	-	-	-	-	2,433	150
Union of South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	2,597	54
Other countries	8	-	4	-	2	3,608	1,196
Total	59,927 21,390	46,025	4,972	6,792	59,013	93,568	68,915
1/ Preliminary.	Less than 5 ton.	2/ All to Colombo.	3/ All to Belgium.				17,329

MALAYAN PALM OIL EXPORTS
UP IN FIRST QUARTER

Exports of Malayan palm oil in the first quarter of 1955 were 14,382 short tons, or 10 percent larger than in the same quarter of 1954, reports G. A. Ruggles, Agricultural Officer, Singapore. Exports of palm kernels registered little change. Production of palm oil and kernels increased.

Malayan palm oil production was reported at 14,497 tons in the first quarter as compared with 13,992 tons for the same period last year. Total palm oil production in 1954 was 60,400 tons, an increase of 5,400 tons from the previous year. Total acreage of oil palms has increased considerably, despite lack of capital and credit, and reluctance on the part of outside capital to invest in Malaya. Prospects for further increased production are bright since terrorist activities are declining and the emergency regulations imposed by the government are being relaxed. Demand for palm oil is reported good.

MALAYA: Palm oil and palm kernel exports,
average 1935-39, annual 1954, and January-March 1954-55

(Short tons)

Country	Palm oil				Palm kernels			
	Average: 1935-39:		1954	Jan.-Mar. 1954	Average: 1935-39:		1954	Jan.-Mar. 1954
Canada.....	9,599	13,043	1,973	1,576	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	-	-	-	-	226	2,036	966	-
Western Germany:	-	1,303	469	-	1,410	1,781	426	398
France.....	-	-	-	-	2/	3,270	-	2/ 530
India.....	908	14,214	5,023	1,036	-	-	-	-
Netherlands....	-	4,969	4,337	-	1,304	7,852	2,154	683
United Kingdom..	23,270	18,973	-	11,713	2,115	-	-	1,574
Other countries:	13,583	3/ 2,713	4/ 1,315	57	3,077	3/ 773	17	303
Total.....	47,360	55,215	13,117	14,382	8,132	15,712	3,563	3,488

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes shipments to Corsica. 3/ Exports of palm oil to Belgium amounted to 1,432 tons; palm kernels - 560 tons. 4/ Exports of palm oil to Belgium amounted to 1,005 tons.

Compiled from official sources.

The United Kingdom purchased 11,713 tons of first-quarter palm oil exports and Canada and India took virtually all the remainder. Domestic consumption, largely for soap, amounted to approximately 6,720 tons for 1954, but is increasing.

Prices of Malayan palm oil in Singapore weakened after the first of the year and reached a low of £77 per long ton (9.6 cents per pound) the first of May. Prices then rallied and reached £83 per ton (10.4 cents per pound) in the first week in June.

Palm kernel exports amounted to 3,488 tons in the first quarter of 1955 compared with 3,563 tons in the same months of 1954. The United Kingdom was the principal purchaser. Palm kernel production of 3,900 tons in January-March 1955 was larger than in the first quarter of 1954.

MOZAMBIQUE'S OUTPUT OF VEGETABLE OILS, OILCAKES EXPECTED UP IN 1955

An over-all rise of some 10 percent in Mozambique's output and consumption of vegetable oils and oilcakes is expected in 1955, according to the American Consulate General, Lourenco Marques. In 1954 the output of vegetable oils reached 17,330 short tons, and increase of some 8 percent from the previous year. Production of oilcakes rose to 30,000 tons, or 31 percent larger than the 1953 outturn.

Recent river floods, which caused considerable damage to cotton and peanut crops, might reduce the estimates for 1955 by a small margin. Mafurra seed, oil of which is used for the manufacture of soap, has been reported in short supply in the current year. Copra is being produced on a large scale in accordance with world market demands. Principal vegetable oils produced in 1954 were peanut--3,290 tons; coconut--8,420; sesame, refined--40; cottonseed, refined--3,980; mafurra seed, crude--1,590; and castor--10.

During 1954 domestic consumption of edible and inedible oils remained stable at about 5,000 tons, but oilcake consumption of 4,360 tons was up nearly 40 percent from 1953. The rise in oilcake consumption is accounted for by increased use of oilcakes as animal feed and in fertilizers.

Exports of vegetable oils from Mozambique in 1954 totaled 10,689 tons against 9,189 tons in 1953. Oilcake exports jumped to 24,183 tons from 18,447 tons in the preceding year. Shipments last year included 2,146 tons of peanut oil, 1,903 tons of cottonseed oil, 5,529 tons of coconut oil, 1,097 tons of mafurra seed oil, and 14 tons of castor oil.

There was a substantial decline in market prices of most exportable vegetable oils in 1954 from the preceding year. However, prices quoted for oilcakes were somewhat higher than those obtained in 1953, except for mafurra seed and castor bean cakes.

URUGUAY'S VEGETABLE OILSEED AND
OIL SITUATION: MID-JUNE

Uruguay has on hand around 984,000 bushels of flaxseed and about 5,500 short tons of linseed oil (14,330 tons oil basis) from the last crop for export as seed or oil during the remainder of the year, according to trade sources as reported by Dale E. Farris, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Montevideo. The past flaxseed crop is estimated by official and trade sources at approximately 2,362,000 bushels. After deducting 393,700 bushels for probable seed requirements and waste, about 1,968,300 bushels are left for crushing. A large part of the new crop has been crushed and sold for export along with carry-in stocks of oil on January 1, estimated at 16,535 tons.

URUGUAY: Linseed oil supply and distribution,
calendar years 1954 and 1955 1/

(Short tons)

	1954	1955 2/
Stocks, January 1.....	11,710	16,535
Production.....	3/ 37,590	4/ 17,635
Imports.....	None	None
Total supply.....	<u>49,300</u>	<u>34,170</u>
Exports.....	31,000	5/ 32,405
Industrial consumption.....	1,765	1,765
Stocks, December 31.....	6/ 16,535	None
Total distribution.....	<u>49,300</u>	<u>34,170</u>

1/ Revised 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Oil equivalent of 117,480 tons (4,195,750 bushels) of seed crushed at 32 percent extraction rate. 4/ Oil equivalent of 55,115 tons (1,968,390 bushels) of seed at 32 percent extraction rate. 5/ Includes 18,040 tons exported January through May, roughly 5,500 tons believed to be committed for export and approximately 27,560 tons (984,000 bushels) of seed still uncrushed. 6/ Stocks in all positions including sold port stocks pending shipment.

Compiled from unofficial sources.

Exports of linseed oil during January-May 1955 totaled 18,040 short tons, virtually all of which went to Europe. There were no exports of flaxseed during this period.

The 1954-55 sunflower seed crop is placed at 74,960 tons, according to the first estimate of the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture. Trade estimates range from 65,000 to 90,000 tons. The Ministry places the sown area at 358,000 acres. The small crop this year is expected to supply Uruguay's internal requirements of sunflower oil. Export no longer appears a possibility. Yields are the smallest in 5 years, attributed to unfavorable weather and large acreage abandonment. No seed or oil was exported during the first 5 months of the current year.

This season's peanut crop is placed at 6,280 tons of unshelled nuts, according to the Ministry's first estimate. Both yields and area are the largest in 4 years. After deducting seed, waste, and human consumption requirements (mainly salted peanuts), approximately 5,180 tons are available for crushing and ultimate blending with sunflower seed oil to meet Uruguay's edible oil needs. No peanuts or peanut oil are likely to be exported this year.

Exports of oilseed expellers and meal from Uruguay during January-May 1955 totaled 29,744 tons.

INDIA'S SESAME OUTPUT UP IN 1954-55

India's final estimate of sesame production in 1954-55 is reported at 663,000 short tons, an increase of 7 percent from the revised estimate of 618,200 tons in 1953-54. Larger production in the current year is due partly to an over-all increase in area from 6,346,000 acres in 1953-54 to 6,460,000 acres, and to better climatic conditions in Uttar Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh. This estimate includes, for the first time, data for the state of Assam.

L A T E N E W S

Prospects for the 1955 apple crop in the United Kingdom have been reduced by poor weather in May. No volume estimates are yet available. Prospects for pears are favorable at the moment. Only a light crop of plums is expected.

Yield of deciduous fruit crops in the Netherlands is reported to be less than 70 percent that of last year, because of bad weather. The Dutch apple crop last year totaled 18-1/3 million bushels, and the pear crop totaled a little over 8 million bushels.

MALAYAN COPRA EXPORTS FALL; COCONUT OIL
EXPORTS INCREASE IN FIRST QUARTER

Exports of copra from Malaya declined more than 30 percent in the first quarter of 1955 from the same period in 1954, and coconut oil exports rose 12 percent, according to G. A. Ruggles, Agricultural Officer, Singapore. The decline in copra exports was due to difficulties with Indonesian trade and increasing competition from the Philippines. A steady decline in copra prices and increasing prices of rubber resulted in some decrease in copra production.

Table 1 - MALAYA: Copra exports and imports, average 1935-39,
annual 1953-54, and January-March 1954-55

(Long tons)

Country	Average	1953	1954 1/	January-March	
	1935-39			1954 1/	1955 1/
Exports					
Czechoslovakia.....	652	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	2,050	6,870	4,350	4,050	1,900
France.....	3,578	300	4,100	2,550	298
Italy.....	11,322	4,516	3,550	1,300	100
Netherlands.....	28,956	11,394	10,337	4,340	5,495
Norway.....	4,703	1,550	300	300	525
Poland.....	3,358	2,000	1,500	-	-
Spain.....	-	3,639	561	561	1,747
Sweden.....	1,850	10,400	12,525	3,850	1,200
United Kingdom.....	57,750	7,440	100	100	-
Western Germany.....	46,384	11,306	6,622	2,547	2,498
Other Europe.....	2,825	247	2/ 4,222	3/ 2,447	-
India.....	535	2,802	13,166	547	242
Japan.....	2,483	3,269	-	-	-
Other Asia.....	959	970	1,850	250	975
Other countries.....	19,286	1,250	1,715	285	581
Total.....	<u>191,691</u>	<u>67,953</u>	<u>64,898</u>	<u>23,127</u>	<u>15,561</u>
Imports					
British possessions...	10,617	5,231	4,396	721	692
Indonesia.....	105,500	68,907	117,745	31,612	33,765
Other countries.....	2,134	3,566	5/ 10,228	1,902	1,068
Total.....	<u>118,251</u>	<u>77,704</u>	<u>132,369</u>	<u>34,235</u>	<u>35,525</u>

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 3,407 tons to Finland. 3/ Includes 2,211 tons to Finland. 4/ All to Iraq. 5/ Includes 4,988 tons from Thailand.

Compiled from official statistics.

Exports of copra in the first quarter of 1955 of 15,561 tons were sharply below shipments of 23,127 tons in the corresponding quarter of 1954. The decline of 30 percent reflects action by the Indonesian Government to discourage trade with entrepot ports such as Singapore; increased competition from the Philippines in European countries as Denmark, Sweden, and Italy; and the drop in purchases by France and Finland.

Imports of copra amounting to 35,525 long tons, 95 percent from Indonesia, were slightly greater in the first quarter of 1955 compared with similar months in 1954. Meanwhile, certain complications have arisen. The trade claims that Indonesian copra is of variable quality, shipments are irregular, and trade is complicated by masses of government regulations. Also, the Indonesian Government would prefer to export directly to consuming markets. Alternative sources of supply of copra are Ceylon and the Philippines. However, Ceylon prices and freight rates are high; Philippine copra is lower in price but the quality is still below that of Indonesia.

A sharp drop in copra production occurred in the first quarter of 1955 from the record high production in 1954. Copra production in 1954 at 164,159 long tons was at the highest level in the postwar period, due largely to new trees coming into production, the decline in terrorist activities, and the relaxation of emergency regulations. A low production of 28,835 tons was estimated for the first 3 months of 1955, or down 10,719 tons from the same period in 1954. Primarily this difference was due to increased prices of rubber and of wages on rubber plantations.

The total supply of Malayan copra is estimated at about 313,500 long tons in 1954. The total supply consisted of beginning stocks of 11,000 tons, estimated production of 164,159 tons, imports of 132,369 tons, and 6,000 tons of copra from other sources. The 1954 pattern of distribution was 64,898 tons for export, 234,100 tons for domestic consumption, and the balance largely as ending stocks. Official statistics disclose only copra that goes through commercial channels or exported. Unrecorded supplies may be large. Copra is being used increasingly by cottage industries and in the home.

Prices of copra (sun-dried) have recorded steady declines through the first 5 months of 1955--from 32 Malayan dollars per picul of 133-1/3 pounds (U.S. 7.9 cents per pound) in January to M\$27 (6.7 cents) by the end of May. Strong competition with Philippine copra, falling off of European demand for Malayan copra, and increasing stocks in Indonesia are the primary factors for the fall in copra prices.

Exports of coconut oil reached 21,729 tons in January-March 1955, a 12-percent increase over the similar period in 1954. Sales to the major purchaser, China, were greater than in the first quarter of 1954.

(See Table 2, next page.)

Table 2 - MALAYA: Coconut oil exports and imports, average 1935-39,
annual 1953-54, and January-March 1954-55

(Long tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	1953	1954 1/	January-March	
				1954 1/	1955 1/
<u>Exports</u>					
France.....	100	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	20	6,407	6,253	2,297	3,924
Netherlands.....	822	9,392	2,403	2,204	2,077
Sweden.....	185	2,115	1,739	1,739	-
United Kingdom....	8,857	291	2,506	-	2,862
Western Germany...	100	7,492	2,952	2,951	2,640
Other Europe.....	190	367	2/ 990	990	-
Burma.....	3,908	9,700	26,029	2,160	1,934
China.....	2,028	5,781	19,757	2,700	4,075
Formosa.....	-	2,007	924	639	197
Hong Kong.....	1,391	1,160	890	124	239
India.....	22,500	13,130	11,847	2,756	2,930
Indonesia.....	3,119	229	-	-	-
Pakistan.....	-	-	385	275	-
Egypt.....	3,295	653	813	310	101
Union of South Africa:	325	1,122	601	-	167
Other countries...	269	1,564	1,137	225	583
Total.....	47,109	61,410	79,226	19,370	21,729
<u>Imports</u>					
British possessions	16	612	458	137	141
Indonesia.....	328	0	258	87	16
Other countries....	229	20	2	-	-
Total.....	573	632	713	224	157

1/ Preliminary. 2/ All to Yugoslavia.

Compiled from official statistics.

Production of Malayan coconut oil reached 29,771 long tons in the first 3 months of 1955. Total production in 1954 was 134,545 tons, 30,807 tons of which were recorded in the first quarter. With beginning stocks of 6,900 tons and 800 tons of coconut oil imports, the total supply in 1954 was about 142,200 tons. Of this quantity, 79,226 tons were exported and 47,800 tons were for domestic consumption--largely for soap or edible purposes.

PARAGUAYAN TUNG OIL SUPPLY IN MID-1955

Paraguay's tung oil supply during the quota year, November 1, 1954-November 1, 1955, is estimated at about 2,650 short tons, reports V. H. Hougen, Commodity Specialist, Foreign Agricultural Service. This estimate includes stocks on November 1, and oil from the 1954 tung nut crop. Since domestic requirements are practically nil, the total supply is likely to be exported.

The export market was fairly active during January-July when European buyers were showing an interest in Paraguayan tung oil. About 1,700 tons of oil had been exported as of June 1, and 660 tons were scheduled for shipment in July. Of this quantity, it is estimated that about one-half was destined to the United States and the remainder to the United Kingdom and other European markets. On this basis only 290 tons more are available for export by November 1.

The 1955 tung nut crop is expected to yield about 2,500 tons of oil. In Paraguay crushing is normally from December to May. However, in seasons when weather is favorable and nuts dry more rapidly, crushing may begin in November.

The United States tung oil imports from Paraguay totaled 601 short tons (1,202,555 pounds) during February-April. The February arrivals were the first since August 1954.

In the calendar year 1954, Paraguayan exports of 2,783 tons of tung oil were sent to the following: the United States, 2,407; Yugoslavia 218, and the United Kingdom 163 tons.

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LATE NEWS: See pp. 28 and 33.

RECENT FAS PUBLICATIONS: See p. 33.

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World Exportable Production of Coffee Forecast at 37 Million Bags for 1955-56.
Foreign Ag. Circ. FCOF-6-55

World Meat Production in 1954. Foreign Ag. Circ. FLM-7-55

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Swollen Shoot Disease Still Taking Heavy Toll of Cocoa Trees in Gold Coast.
Foreign Ag. Circ. FCB-4-55

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L A T E N E W S

Raisins, bulk and packaged, were placed on Denmark's free import list June 29. Delivery cannot be made, however, until November 1, in order to permit liquidation of present stocks.